

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-16 and 18-23 are pending. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

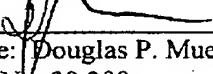
The limitation of claim 17 has been included in independent claim 2. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. As claims 17 and 18 were indicated to be allowable, the issues raised in the Office Action are moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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